

CLAIMS

1. A pharmaceutical composition having an inhibitory effect on the overproduction and the accumulation of extracellular matrix, said composition comprising as an active ingredient a compound having an inhibitory effect on the biological activity of galectin-3.

2. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1, wherein the biological activity of galectin-3 is to promote the production of extracellular matrix from an extracellular matrix-producing cell.

3. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1 which exhibits an inhibitory effect on glomerular nephritis, diabetic nephropathy or tissue fibrosis of which cause is the overproduction and the accumulation of extracellular matrix.

4. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 3, wherein the biological activity of galectin-3 is to promote the production of extracellular matrix from an extracellular matrix-producing cell.

5. The pharmaceutical composition according to any of claims 1 to 4, wherein the compound having an inhibitory effect on the biological activity of galectin-3 is an anti-galectin 3 antibody.

6. The pharmaceutical composition according to any of claims 1 to 4, wherein the compound having an inhibitory effect on the biological activity of galectin-3 is an inhibitor of galectin 3 binding.

7. The pharmaceutical composition according to any of claims 1 to 4, wherein the compound having an inhibitory effect on the biological activity of galectin-3 is a compound that inhibits the incorporation of galectin 3 into the cell.

8. The pharmaceutical composition according to any of claims 1 to 4, wherein the compound that inhibits the biological activity of galectin-3 is a compound that modulates the transfer of galectin 3 into the nucleus.

9. The pharmaceutical composition according to any of claims 1 to 4, wherein the compound that inhibits the biological activity of galectin-3 is a compound that inhibits the physiological activity of galectin 3 in the nucleus or the cytoplasm.

10. The pharmaceutical composition according to any of claims 1 to 4, wherein the compound that inhibits the biological activity of galectin-3 is a compound that modulates the expression or secretion of galectin 3.

11. The pharmaceutical composition according to any one of claims 1 to 10, which is a therapeutic or preventive agent.

12. The pharmaceutical composition according to any of claims 3 to 11, wherein the glomerular nephritis, diabetic nephropathy or tissue fibrosis is glomerular nephritis, diabetic nephropathy or tissue fibrosis, respectively, caused by the abnormal proliferation of mesangium cells.

13. The use of a compound having an inhibitory effect on the biological activity of galectin-3, for the production of a pharmaceutical composition for inhibition of the overproduction and the accumulation of extracellular matrix.

14. The use according to claim 13, wherein the biological activity of galectin-3 is to promote the production of extracellular matrix from an extracellular matrix-producing cell.

15. The use according to claim 13, for treatment of glomerular nephritis, diabetic nephropathy or tissue fibrosis of which cause is the overproduction and the accumulation of extracellular matrix.

16. The use according to claim 15, wherein the biological activity of galectin-3 is to promote the production of extracellular matrix from an extracellular matrix-producing cell.

17. The use according to any of claims 13 to 16, wherein the compound having an inhibitory effect on the

biological activity of galectin-3 is an anti-galectin 3 antibody.

18. (Amended) The use according to any of claims 13 to 16, wherein the compound having an inhibitory effect on the biological activity of galectin-3 is an inhibitor of galectin 3 binding.

19. (Amended) The use according to any of claims 13 to 16, wherein the compound having an inhibitory effect on the biological activity of galectin-3 is a compound that inhibits the incorporation of galectin 3 into the cell.

20. (Amended) The use according to any of claims 13 to 16, wherein the compound that inhibits the biological activity of galectin-3 is a compound that modulates the transfer of galectin 3 into the nucleus.

21. (Amended) The use according to any of claims 13 to 16, wherein the compound that inhibits the biological activity of galectin-3 is a compound that inhibits the physiological activity of galectin 3 in the nucleus or the cytoplasm.

22. (Amended) The use according to any of claims 13 to 16, wherein the compound that inhibits the biological activity of galectin-3 is a compound that modulates the expression or secretion of galectin 3.

23. The use according to any one of claims 13 to 22, which is for a therapeutic or preventive use.

24. The use according to any of claims 15 to 23, wherein the glomerular nephritis, diabetic nephropathy or tissue fibrosis is glomerular nephritis, diabetic nephropathy or tissue fibrosis, respectively, caused by the abnormal proliferation of mesangium cells.

25. A method for inhibition of the overproduction and the accumulation of extracellular matrix, said method comprising administering a compound having an inhibitory effect on the biological activity of galectin-3, to a subject which needs said inhibition.

26. The method according to claim 25, wherein the

biological activity of galectin-3 is to promote the production of extracellular matrix from an extracellular matrix-producing cell.

27. The method composition according to claim 25 for inhibition of glomerular nephritis, diabetic nephropathy or tissue fibrosis of which cause is the overproduction and the accumulation of extracellular matrix.

10 28. The method according to claim 27 wherein the biological activity of galectin-3 is to promote the production of extracellular matrix from an extracellular matrix-producing cell.

15 29. The method according to any of claims 25 to 28, wherein the compound having an inhibitory effect on the biological activity of galectin-3 is an anti-galectin 3 antibody.


20 30. The method according to any of claims 25 to 28, wherein the compound having an inhibitory effect on the biological activity of galectin-3 is an inhibitor of galectin 3 binding.

31. The method according to any of claims 25 to 28, wherein the compound having an inhibitory effect on the biological activity of galectin-3 is a compound that inhibits the incorporation of galectin 3 into the cell.

25 32. The method according to any of claims 25 to 28, wherein the compound that inhibits the biological activity of galectin-3 is a compound that modulates the transfer of galectin 3 into the nucleus.

30 33. The method according to any of claims 25 to 28, wherein the compound that inhibits the biological activity of galectin-3 is a compound that inhibits the physiological activity of galectin 3 in the nucleus or the cytoplasm.

35 34. The method according to any of claims 25 to 28, wherein the compound that inhibits the biological activity of galectin-3 is a compound that modulates the expression or secretion of galectin 3.



35. The method according to any one of claims 25 to 34, which is for therapeutic or preventive treatment.

5 36. The method according to any of claims 27 to 35, wherein the glomerular nephritis, diabetic nephropathy or tissue fibrosis is glomerular nephritis, diabetic nephropathy or tissue fibrosis, respectively, caused by the abnormal proliferation of mesangium cells.